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20. RECORD OF THE BARB *BARBODUS CARNATICUS*  
(CYPRINIDAE : CYPRINIFORMES) FROM THE STREAMS  
OF EASTERN GHATS, OF TAMIL NADU.

The large barb *Barbodus carnaticus* is endemic to Western Ghats, being known only from the Cauvery drainages at the base of the Nilgiris, Wynaad and also from Karnataka (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991; Menon, 1992; Arunachalam *et al.*, 1998). It grows to a maximum size of about 60 cm in length and 12 kg in weight (Menon, 1992); in our ongoing Western Ghats biodiversity programme we recorded specimens from 25 cm to 40 cm in length (0.5-3 kg in weight). During a recent survey, we collected a fair number of specimens of *B. carnaticus* from an unnamed stream near Arapaleeswar temple, and also some unnamed streams in Kolli hills of Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu. The literature on Eastern Ghats (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991; Misra, 1938; Lazarus *et al.*, 1988; Rema Devi, 1992) shows that this species was not reported from this region by earlier workers. Till now, the distribution of the species was Cauvery drainage systems of Western Ghats (Molur and Walker, 1998). The present record shows its extension to Eastern Ghats, indicating affinities between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.

## DESCRIPTION

D IV/8; P 15; V 9; A II/5; C 19; Ltr. Scales 5, 3 ½. Body elongate, dorsal profile more

convex than ventral; its depth 2.8 to 3.2 times in standard length. Head length 4.0 to 4.25 times in head. Mouth subterminal; lips moderately fleshy. Barbels two pairs, maxillary pair longer than rostral pair. Dorsal fin inserted midway between tip of snout and caudal base. Last undivided dorsal ray osseous, strong. Lateral line complete with 30-32 scales. Colour in live specimens dark olivaceous green on back, fading to dull white with gold on flanks and abdomen. After preservation in formaline, light brown on dorsal side and flanks, abdomen pale yellow.

**Habitat and Ecology**

*B. carnaticus* prefers large pools and riffle habitats of rapid rivers and streams. Adults prefer pools, hiding in undercutting of bedrock and boulders, while juveniles prefer riffle habitats. It feeds mostly on benthic substrates. It has been introduced into reservoirs of Periyar and Cauvery drainage systems.

**Distribution**

Found in Cauvery, Bhavani, Moyar rivers in Tamil Nadu; Periyar reservoir (introduced) in Kerala (Menon, 1992) and Hemavathi river of Karnataka (Arunachalam *et al.*, 1998). We collected this species for the first time from an unnamed stream near Arapaleeswar temple in Kolli hills of Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu.

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## 21. RANGE EXTENSION OF *OSTEOBRAMA COTIO PENINSULARIS* SILAS TO KERALA

The genus *Osteobrama* is found in the Oriental region and is restricted to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). This genus is characterised by having a dorsal fin inserted slightly behind pelvic fins with 11 or 12 rays (8 or 9 branched), a strong serrated spine and a long anal fin with 14-36 rays (11-13 branched). The present report of *Osteobrama cotio peninsularis* is based on two specimens collected from Periyar river, Central Kerala.

### *Osteobrama cotio peninsularis* Silas

**Distinguishing characters:** D iii-iv 8-9; A iii 28-31; PI 12-14; V i 9.

Body trapezoid and considerably compressed, its depth 2.2 to 2.9 times in standard length; abdominal edge trenchant from base of pelvic fins to anal fin, but rounded in front of pelvic fins. Mouth small; barbels absent. Dorsal spine weak and serrated. Scales small; lateral

line with 55 to 60 scales; scale-rows 7½ to 9½ between lateral line and base of pelvic fins; predorsal scales 21-24.

*Osteobrama cotio peninsularis* can be easily identified from its closely related subspecies by the presence of fewer branched rays in the anal fin, less than 10½ scale-rows between lateral line and pelvic fin, greater number of lateral line scales and lesser number of pre-dorsal scales. It can be distinguished from *O. cotio cotio* in the lesser number of branched rays in the anal fin, less than 10½ scale-rows between lateral line and pelvic fin; and it can also be distinguished from *O. cotio cunna* by the presence of greater number of lateral line scales and fewer pre-dorsal scales.

**Geographic distribution:** Peninsular India: Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

**Remarks:** The genus *Osteobrama* is represented by seven species in India, of which *O. bakeri* is endemic to Kerala. *O. bakeri* is the